

# GRANTS

*There are occasions when lake organizations take on projects or become involved in matters that require more funding than they possess. Grants are a tool that lake groups frequently use to raise needed capital.*

## LOOKING FOR LAKE GRANTS

*by Jeff Pagels, Brad Bauer, Mary Danoski*

A grant is funding given to a **grantee** (group or individual) to carry out activities that help fulfill the goals of the **grantor** (funding source). Grants, unlike loans, are generally not paid back. Grants often require the grantee to contribute some percentage (local share) of the cost of the proposed project. You may find that grants, like interest rates and stock markets, have "buyers and sellers markets." If there is plenty of money available and limited demand, grantors may go out of their way to help grantees receive their funds. If funding is limited and demand is high, an organization may have to work hard and "dot every *i* and cross every *t*" to receive a grant.

Grants are used for a wide variety of needs supplementing local funding for projects. Funds are usually for public works projects but may also be used for research, planning, developing new products, providing for special needs for individuals, or providing art or experiences to a community. From a grantor's perspective, grants are an incentive to accomplish their goals or policies.

Government funds available for grants to lake communities are dependent on a biennial appropriation by the State Legislature and annual appropriations by Congress and/or county boards.

Grant funding, particularly government grant funding, is designed to help communities, groups and individuals accomplish tasks beyond their immediate fiscal means. The grant process helps redistribute tax money to those areas which show a need for funding, have a worthwhile project, and show the capacity to complete and manage that project. Most grants come from the government, and almost all government grants represent a redistribution of tax money. Citizens should take advantage of grant opportunities.

## WHERE DO I START?

The majority of grants given to Wisconsin lake organizations in the 1980's and 90's come from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (detailed later). Lake organizations may also receive grant funding from federal agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other international, state and private sources.

When looking for state or federal funds, a great place for a lake organization to start is your area Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Community Services Specialist. These helpful folks are aware of funding sources that match your project and the procedures to follow in order to qualify. You can also contact your county's University Extension Community Resource and Development (CRD) agent.

Government provides a great majority of grants generated through taxes. Some grant dollars are user fee generated (i.e., boater's fuel tax, snowmobile license registrations, etc.). Grants are a primary means of distributing tax funds back into communities. Communities and organizations that apply for and receive grants get more from their tax dollars than those that do not. Funding can also be found through trusts, corporations, individuals, educational or research institutions, or special interest groups.

### **ELIGIBILITY AND ABILITY**

Eligibility and ability are preliminary processes which need to be considered prior to filing a grant application.

To determine your **eligibility**, investigate the requirements, desires and limits of the granting agencies. Eligibility is a combination of two factors:

- who is applying for the grant, and
- the purpose of the grant.

The **ability** of an organization to completely carry out the project is a critical factor in a granting agency's considerations. Feasibility factors to consider:

- Is the project likely to happen?
- Will the funds make a difference between the success or failure of the project?
- Is it practical to expect the organization to complete the project?
- Will the project meet the grantor's goals?

### **Match**

A grant **match** is the effort—through cash, donations or in-kind services—that will be offered by the grantee to show a commitment to the project. Almost all grants require a match. If this commitment is in the form of cash funds that the grantee puts toward the project, it is called a **hard match**. If goods and services are committed to the project, it is called a **soft match**. A soft match may be in a variety of forms, but usually consists of labor, office services or materials.

**Leverage**

On occasion you may be able to use one or more sources of funds to match another. Money from various sources can be combined and leveraged depending on the grant. Rules vary from source to source so you need to do your research.

**Rules**

Granting agencies have rules about who is eligible to receive funds in a given program. Government grants are usually funnelled through smaller governmental agencies (i.e., federal money to the state and then to the county). Private grants may have more restrictive or creative limitations such as a geographic area or members of a certain ethnic group or profession. Many grants for social programs have diversity and income level requirements.

The intended use of the grant is a very important factor, one which needs to be examined closely when determining which grant to apply for. Often, groups seeking grant funds may alter a project to meet the use limitations or requirements of a granting agency. To a degree, the narrative in the application can be drafted to meet the expectations of the granting agency, but disinformation or deception is illegal and counter-productive. Modifying a project to meet a grantor's requirements also needs to be examined closely, so as not to jeopardize the intent and goals of a project for the sake of gaining funding.

**Private vs. Government Funds**

You may need to consider a different approach when contacting private sources compared to government agencies for grant funds.

- Personal contact with officers of a private foundation may be more important than with a government agency.
- Private foundations tend to fund activities for which governmental support is not available.
- Private foundations may give more weight to uniqueness.
- Private foundations may require a shorter and less detailed proposal.
- Private foundations commonly provide less detailed guidelines for proposal preparation.
- Private foundations are less inclined to give reasons for rejection of a proposal and are under no legal obligation to do so.
- Private foundations may be more flexible about the manner in which a grantee spends the funds awarded.

## **GETTING THE GRANT**

In a very simplified model, all grant applications have six steps in common. These start with formulating your idea or problem, and conclude with administering the grant and fulfilling its accounting requirements. **Your DNR Community Services Specialist or UW-Extension Community Resource Development Agent can provide assistance for developing your grant application.**

### **Idea Formulation and/or Problem Identification**

Formulating your idea or problem is often one of the most difficult tasks in this process. While a problem may be perceived or generally accepted, it is often difficult to document a problem in quantifiable terms or with concrete evidence. It is important to write out the situation in a somewhat detached, mechanical style. Defining the situation in simple terms, void of emotion or bias, is the best way to find those components of the problem which may best be addressed through a grant program. The more clearly you can define needs and evidence in your proposal, the more apt the grantor is to fund your project. Granting agencies like to know exactly what they are funding and why. Fuzzy, emotional appeals rarely receive funding, particularly through government agencies.

### **Identification, Selection and Solicitation**

Once the problem/idea has been clearly defined, the task of identifying grant sources for the project becomes easier. You should not necessarily consider your project as one single entity. Doing so reduces your opportunities to fund parts of the project which may be important to a special interest group or agency. For example: a community may wish to upgrade a neighborhood park. In a broad context, Aid for Development of Local Parks or ADLP, may be a logical program to approach to fund the project. However, when the project is broken down into components, a variety of agencies may be approached. The DNR will be interested in the facility as a whole. Easter Seals or DILHR may have programs to fund access of the facility for the physically challenged. Transportation funds may be available for a bike path to and through the site from the Department of Transportation. The idea here is to approach as many interested agencies as possible with legitimate proposals. Sharing the funding increases your opportunities as agencies are able to target their areas of interest, and grantors are impressed with applicants who show initiative to share the burden.

Approaching a granting agency varies from source to source. Normally, there is a form which needs to be completed, and a "window" of time during which applications will be accepted (this is a general rule, there are exceptions). Competition is usually based on a points accrued system, centered on the documented need for the project, support within the community, and the proven or potential capacity of the agency to complete and manage the project. There usually is a specific person or office which handles the grant applications. It is a very good idea to contact this person or office and discuss your grant needs, your project and the granting agency's application requirements.

In the private sector, the person or office responsible for awarding the grant is seldom as well identified or informed as those in government. Often private grantors fund projects on an intermittent basis, with programs lying inactive for years at a time. As such, approaching private agencies requires more personal contact, a softer approach, and perhaps, fewer facts and data. Identifying these private groups is difficult, and often hours must be spent at a grants library seeking information on a grantor's criteria, requirements and limitations before a few sources can be identified. Often, the first approach to a private grantor is through a personal letter to the officer in charge of the program.

**Proposal Preparation:**

Most grant programs have a designed outline and requirements for application. It is very important that all the criteria in the application be completed. The requirements in the application are to provide the grantor with the information needed to make a decision. If information is lacking, your application may be rejected during the review process.

There is an art and skill to preparing grant applications. Making your proposal stand out and be recognized is a function of meeting the criteria of the granting agency, clearly defining your situation, and relating your need to their desires. While creativity and good writing skills are important, honesty and sincerity are the paramount factors in completing a grant application.

**Proposal Submission:**

Submitting the proposal in the manner required by the grantor is as important as the content of the application. Very often, acceptance or rejection of an application is based on the professionalism and skill of the grant writer. It is very important that, prior to submitting the proposal, a checklist of all necessary items is made and double-checked to assure that all items required have been completed and packaged in your application. Timeliness is essential, as most grants run in cycles with application deadline dates. Late applications will rarely be accepted.

**Proposal Acceptance or Rejection:**

Upon receiving an application, the granting agency will weigh and compare all applications relative to the requirements of the application and the goals of the granting program. If there are more requests than available funds (which is almost always the case) the applications become competitive with each other. In this competition, those applications that show the greatest need, meet the priority goals of the granting agency, and demonstrate the greater level of competency and service, will be graded highest and will be more apt to receive funding. With limited funds and many requests, the grantor may fund at a partial level or specify what portion of a project will be funded.

### **Grant Administration or Revision**

Once the decision has been made by the granting agency to either award funding or reject the application, the requesting organization has certain options and/or obligations. In the case of a rejection, the grantor may provide the applicant with reasons for the rejection. In a case where there are more applications that better meet the goals of the granting program, the requesting organization has some options. First, the applicant might look for another program that more closely suits the project. Second, the applicant might alter the project to better meet the goals of the grantor and reapply at the next grant cycle. If the rejection is a matter of not completing the application correctly or not providing adequate or appropriate information, then the grant author needs to be more adept at writing the grant request.

In the case of acceptance, the applicant must then comply with the accounting and verification requirements of the granting agency. Quite often—particularly in the case of capital improvement projects—strict accounting and billing procedures must be followed and are often accompanied by an audit. In the case of reimbursement grants, the funded organization needs to make arrangements, either internally or externally, for financing to meet the expenditures prior to the actual receipt of funds from the granting agency. Since most grants are reimbursement grants, the grantee usually has to provide documentation of money spent to receive a refund for expenditures. In most cases, copies of the front and back of the canceled check will fill this documentation requirement.

The grants system can be a complex process. Large or highly technical grants often require accountants, specialists or writers to complete. However, many grants can be successfully completed by small communities, groups or individuals. The key is to identify your situation, match it to an appropriate grant program and conscientiously prepare the application. Lake districts and lake associations alike should retain an attorney when arranging financing for large-scale projects. **Applications for funds are for projects not yet accomplished; most grantors will not fund projects that are already completed.**

***Districts and associations should retain an attorney to help arrange financing for large projects.***

#### **GRANT CHECK LIST**

- ☐ Have you completed the questions carefully and addressed all criteria?
- ☐ Is your proposal neat, clean and readable?
- ☐ Have all the forms been completed in detail?
- ☐ Have you included pictures, brochures, statistics and support letters (if requested or allowed by the grantor)?
- ☐ Have you made the proposal skimmable (readable) using an outline form with underlined section titles, short paragraphs and emphasis points?

COMPONENTS OF A GRANT	
Component Area	Component Specifics
I. Abstract and Budget Summary	A. One page introduction to project B. Summary of budget expectations
II. Introduction	A. Who you are as a submitting agency B. Submitting agency experiences, accomplishments and support C. Establish program and financial credibility D. Assign an agent to serve as contact for grant activity, questions, etc.
III. Problem/Need Statement	A. Data to identify and clarify problem/need B. Why your project C. Process oriented
IV. Objectives	A. Stated in relation to problem/need B. Stated in performance terms, are specific, time oriented and measurable C. Process oriented
V. Methods	A. Product or outcomes oriented B. Plan of action C. Program design, interrelationship of project components D. Identifiable "deliverables"
VI. Evaluation	A. Process oriented B. Product oriented C. External review D. Internal review
VII. Budget	A. Honest and realistic B. Each component identified by line item C. Identification of matching funds and local contributions D. No surprises or secrets E. Within limits set by external funding source
VIII. Summary	A. One page in length B. Identification of submitting agency C. States submitting agency credibility D. States problem/need E. Gives project objectives and activities F. Gives project costs
IX. Appendix	A. Letters of support B. Personnel vita/resume C. Program brochure D. Reports, data and documents E. Job descriptions

## GRANTS AND OTHER EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES

*by Larry Freidig, Judi Ahrikencheikh*

Grants come and go and the criteria change. Contact your DNR Community Services Specialist for up-to-date information. The following summary will give you an idea of the types of grants appropriate to Wisconsin lake organizations.

### FOUNDATIONS

A "Foundation Directory" can be found in your public library. Two critical points to remember about foundations: 1) Many do not have staff. The best approach is a brief well-written letter which includes a budget and describes your program and your request; and 2) Foundation giving is often very personal and based on the interest of a key board member. Try to contact one of them personally.

#### **Some Possible Foundations to Contact:**

- Fish America
- Natural Resources Foundation
- Ducks Unlimited
- Trout Unlimited

### FEDERAL GRANTS

The best source is the "Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance." This lists every grant program run by the federal government. Ask at your local library to use a copy. A **word of caution:** under each program is listed the amount of money authorized by Congress. Congress frequently authorizes funds for programs for which they do not appropriate money. Check with the agency to see how much money it really has.

#### **Some Federal Grant and Cost Share Sources:**

- Clean Water and Clean Lake Act
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration - Dingell-Johnson Fund (administered by WDNR)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (administered by WDNR)



## **STATE GRANTS**

The Department of Natural Resources publishes a "Directory of State and Federal Assistance Programs" which gives descriptions of grants available and types of projects that can be funded.

### **Some State Grant Sources:**

- Lake Planning Grants
- County Conservation Aids
- Municipal Water Safety Patrol
- Priority Lake-Nonpoint
- Dam Repair/Removal
- Recycling Grants
- Lake Protection Grants
- Recreational Boating Projects
- Priority Watershed-Nonpoint
- Stewardship
- Environmental Education

*The Lake Planning and Protection Grants are a major source of funding for lake organizations. Therefore, they are reviewed here in greater detail than other grant programs.*

### **Lake Planning Grants**

Under the **Planning Grant Program**, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides funding to local governments and lake management organizations for the collection and analysis of information needed to manage lakes. The program accomplishes this by encouraging local organizations to obtain basic water quality, water use and land use information that considers the broad range of factors that can affect the quality of inland lakes. Another goal of the program is to develop stronger state/local partnerships, leading to more effective watershed protection and lake management.

### **Who Can Apply?**

Any general purpose unit of government (county, town, city, or village), town sanitary districts, tribes, non-profit conservation organizations and all lake districts are eligible to apply. Lake associations that meet certain qualifications are also eligible (NR 190; Wis. Stats. Sec. 144.253(1)). (See UWEX Fact Sheet, What is a Qualified Lake Association?)

**Eligible Projects:**

- Gathering and analyzing physical, chemical, and biological lake information.
- Describing present and potential land uses within the watershed.
- Reviewing jurisdictional boundaries and evaluating ordinances that relate to zoning, sanitation or pollution control.
- Gathering and analyzing information from lake property owners, community residents and lake users.
- Developing, evaluating, publishing and distributing alternative courses of action and recommendations.

**Conditions:**

The state may pay for 75% of the cost of a planning project with a maximum amount of \$10,000 per grant. The remaining 25% must be provided by the local organization from its own revenues or cash contributions from other non-state and non-federal sources. One or more grants may be made to your lake each year.

The program has funded 249 grants totalling over \$2 million between October 1990 and October 1994. The budget for this program contains \$622,100 per year. Because grant requests have often exceeded funds available, a ranking procedure has been developed.

**Some Criteria for Prioritizing Grant Applications**

- The degree to which the project provides a holistic set of alternatives to assist local decision-making in the formation of a strategy to enhance or maintain a lake's quality.
- The degree to which the project will enhance knowledge of a lake's **water quality**.
- The degree to which the project will enhance knowledge of a lake's **watershed**.
- How much the public uses the lake and the availability of public access.
- The extent and means by which information about the project will be distributed.
- The degree to which the project complements the use of other community funds for the project and other lake management efforts.
- The level of support for the project from other affected management units.
- First time projects will receive higher ranking.

**Applications:**

Applications are due by February 1 and August 1 of each year. The initial review is conducted by each DNR District Office where a decision on eligibility is made and the project is ranked. A statewide priority list is assembled and grant agreements are processed. Decisions on each application are to be made within 60 days (April 1 and October 1).

If the grantee requests an advance payment, the state provides 75% of its share based on estimated cost of the planning effort (75% of its 75% share). The remaining 25% is sent after receipt of the final report. A final report, both a paper copy and an electronic copy, is

necessary at the conclusion of each grant. Your project consultant can provide you with the electronic copy of your final report. A summary of that document must be prepared for distribution to local property owners and interested citizens.

### Where to Find More Information

Application forms and more information are available from DNR district offices or county UW-Extension offices. Some information can be gathered by your own members with the guidance of agency professionals. Private consultants are available to assist you in gathering other information. A list of consultants, without endorsement, can be obtained from UW-Extension, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (715/346-2116) or your DNR district lakes coordinator. (See Section 11: Who's Who, for a copy of the Lake List.)

### Lake Protection Grants

Under the **Lake Protection Grant Program**, lake management organizations can obtain matching funds from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The funds in this grant program can be used to purchase lands critical to lake ecosystems, restore wetlands, develop local regulations and other lake improvement activities. This grant program is authorized by Sec. 144.254, Wis. Stats. and administered under NR 191, Wisconsin DNR Administrative Code. Each year up to \$1 million will be allocated for this program.

### **Who Can Apply?**

All counties, cities, villages, tribes, town sanitary districts, nonprofit conservation organizations, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts and qualified lake associations (see the UWEX Fact Sheet, What is a Qualified Lake Association?).

### **Eligible Projects:**

- The purchase of property or easements which will significantly contribute to the protection or improvement of the natural ecosystem and water quality of a lake.
- The restoration of wetlands or the lands draining to wetlands.
- The development of regulations and ordinances to protect lakes and the educational activities necessary for them to begin to be implemented.
- Any activity in a plan for improving the lake that is approved by DNR.

**Note:** Water safety patrols, dredging, sanitary sewer work, dam repair and aquatic plant harvesting are **not** eligible.

**Conditions:****For Purchasing Property**

The state will provide 50% of the cost of property, up to \$100,000. All grant programs that entail the purchase of property are subject to numerous legal requirements related to purchase procedures. These purchase procedures must be used to ensure fair treatment of the landowner from whom the property is being purchased. Principle conditions include:

- DNR approved appraisals of property are required.
- To ensure long-term protection and maintenance, any property purchased with use of state funds will be subject to the execution of a grant contract. One condition of the grant contract is a management plan. This contract will remain with the property as a deed restriction.
- The local share must be a cash match of 50% of the eligible project cost.
- Property purchased any time after August 15, 1991 may be eligible for a retroactive grant if proper acquisition and appraisal procedures were used to purchase the property and if funds are available.

**Note:** Dam repair, operation, removal or the purchase of property on which a dam is located are **not** eligible.

**For Wetland Restoration and Development of Local Ordinances**

The state will provide 50% of the cost of a project, up to a maximum of \$100,000. These funds can be used for:

- Restoration of wetlands or lands draining to wetlands. Eligible costs for wetland restoration include design, surveying, engineering and actual construction.
- Development of local protection regulations. Ordinance development and educational activity costs which are eligible include legal costs, surveys, newsletters and similar activities.

Certain local in-kind contributions, within cost guidelines, may also be eligible as part of the project cost and local match for these activities.

**Some Criteria for Prioritizing Grant Applications**

- The degree to which the project provides for protection or improvement of lake water quality and other aspects of its natural ecosystem.
- The amount and type of public access on the lake.
- The degree to which the project compliments other lake and watershed protection efforts.
- The level of financial support provided by the sponsor.
- The level of support for the project from other affected local units of government or lake organizations.

- Lakes which have not previously received a lake protection grant will receive a higher priority.

### **Applications:**

The Department of Natural Resources provides applications and technical guidance for the Protection Grants Program. Complete project applications must be received by November 1 to be eligible for this annual grant program and awards will be made by March 1. The DNR will prepare a statewide priority project list each year.

There are two parts to the application: **Part I** is required only for qualified lake associations or for management units organized under ss. 66.299(1)(a). Your application may be submitted at any time to obtain prior approval and demonstrate the organization's eligibility to obtain a grant. **Part I** for non-profit conservation organizations (NCO) must meet the qualifications for eligibility under the criteria for stewardship funding established in Chapter NR 51, Wis. Adm. Code. The organization must provide evidence of its qualifications and its ability to carry out the purposes of the project. **Part II** of the application concerns the project itself. This part must describe the project in detail and include project costs, how the project will protect the lake, who will sponsor the project and how it will be paid for.

### **Where to Find More Information**

Application forms and more information are available from Community Service Specialists at DNR district offices or Community Resource Development Agents at county UW-Extension offices. Some information can be gathered by your own members with the guidance of agency professionals. Private consultants are available to assist you in gathering other information. A list of consultants, without endorsement, can be obtained from UW-Extension, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (715/346-2116) or your DNR district lakes coordinator. (See Section 11: Who's Who, for a copy of the Lake List.)

## **OTHER TYPES OF GRANTS**

**Clean Lakes Grant - EPA** - Dependent upon availability of federal funds. DNR sets priorities based upon state and federal guidelines. Lake organizations need to work with their DNR district lake coordinator when pursuing these grants.

- Objective of this fund is lake water quality protection/improvement.
- The level of assistance is up to 50% cost sharing.
- The type of projects eligible are lake studies and lake improvement.

The studies are comprehensive in nature and must be designed and implemented in accordance with Federal Clean Lakes regulations. Total cost of such studies range from \$30,000 to \$100,000.

**Recreational Boating - Waterways Commission** - 50% cost share; 60% cost share if you have a qualified safety patrol.

- Provide funds to units of government and qualified lake associations for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities.

**Facilities** such as ramps/service docks required to gain access to water.

**Structures** such as bulkheads and breakwaters necessary to provide safe water conditions for boaters.

**Dredging** of channels in waterways to provide safe water depths for recreational boating (not more than once in ten years). Dredging is an eligible project only when associated with project development at the project site. Maintenance dredging is not eligible.

**Support facilities** limited to parking lots, sanitary facilities, security lighting, landscaping and signage.

**Locks.** Costs of operating and maintaining locks which provide access between waterways.

**Equipment.** Acquisition of equipment to cut and remove aquatic plants.

**Purchase of Aids** to navigation and regulatory markers.

**Water Quality and Hydrologic Investigation - USGS** - A federal program designed to assist in trend monitoring gauging and intensive study of a lake and/or basin. Contact local specialist for more details on this program.

**Municipal Water Safety Patrols - DNR** - For the cost of operation of a Boating Law Enforcement program.

- To provide professional/uniform enforcement of boating laws at a local level.
- Conduct boating education programs.
- Provide search and rescue for live persons.
- Reimbursement for salaries, supplies and equipment.
- Up to 75% of the net cost for enforcement of state statutes s.30.50 to 30.80 and local regulation adopted under s.30.77.

**Dam Maintenance Repair, Modification, Abandonment and Removal - DNR** - Provides municipalities and public inland lake districts with financial assistance in conducting dam maintenance, repair, modification, abandonment and removal.

- 50% matching grants; limit of \$200,000 per project.
- Funding priority is determined by the dam's size, hazard rating, downstream zoning, repair costs and municipality's financial need.

**Nonpoint Pollution Abatement - DNR** - To improve water quality by limiting or ending sources of nonpoint source water pollution.

- Provide financial/technical assistance to landowners, land operators and state agencies acting as landowners.
- 50% to 80% cost sharing for installing best management practices to combat water pollution.
- Governmental units within designated priority watersheds or priority lakes eligible.
- Local governmental units and agencies involved must be willing to carry out program responsibilities.

**Soil & Water Resource Program - DATCP** - Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection sponsors this program concerning several nonpoint activities.

- Control of animal waste.
- Soil erosion controls.
- Other nonpoint projects.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund** - Encourage nationwide creation and interpretation of high quality outdoor recreational opportunities.

- 50% matching funds.
- Acquisition of land for public outdoor recreational areas preservation of water frontage and open space.
- Development of public outdoor park and recreational facilities.

**Scenic Urban Waterways** - Local government programs based upon the degree to which the project meets program activities.

- Gives people the opportunity to enjoy water-based recreation in close proximity to urban areas, attract out-of-state visitors and improve tourism and protect certain watersheds.
- Up to 80% assistance.
- Acquisition and development of local parks, open spaces, access, trails, parking, fish and wildlife habitat, woodlands, wetlands, water quality improvement projects and layout and development of scenic drives.

**Stewardship - DNR** - 10 years of funding, July 1, 1990-June 30, 2000; \$250,000,000.

- Creates a match program for grants of money to nonprofit conservation groups.
- Grants would cover 50% of the purchase price of lands or land rights.
- This match grant program fosters the important role nonprofit conservation groups can have in meeting land conservation, recreation and habitat restoration needs.

**Habitat Restoration Area (HRA) Program.** \$1,500,000 per year to restore wildlife habitat that has been lost to development and intensive agriculture. Emphasis is on scattered site wetland and grassland restoration.

**Streambank protection.** A \$1,000,000 per year program to improve and protect surface water quality and fishery habitat.

**Trails.** Provides a \$1,500,000 per year for a comprehensive state trails program including \$500,000 for the Ice Age Trail.

**Natural Areas.** Emphasizes the Natural Areas program to save the last remaining vestiges of Wisconsin's native landscape, archaeological features, and special habitat for endangered and threatened plants animals. Provides \$2,000,000 per year for protection of natural areas as identified by the Natural Heritage Inventory program.

**Urban Green Space Program.** \$750,000 per year for grants to local municipalities, counties, inland lake protection districts and nonprofit conservation groups. May be used in urban areas to provide open green space, protect scenic, ecological or other natural features, or land for noncommercial gardening.

**Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration - DNR** - Projects are reviewed and ranked by DNR Fisheries Management biennially. Estimated \$6,800,000 available 1991-1992.

- 75% cost share.
- Annual expenditures of \$500,000 for developing boat access.
- Remainder spent on land acquisition, habitat restoration, aquatic education and other DNR management projects.

**County Conservation Aids Fund** - Small grant program through counties or Indian tribes. Allotment of \$140,000 per year is shared by all counties.

- 50% cost share of eligible activities.
- Objective is to carry out program of fish or wildlife management projects. Projects related to enhancing hunting and fishing opportunities.

**Wisconsin Conservation Aids Fund** - Labor for some projects may be available using Conservation Corps work crews.

**Resource Conservation and Development** - Soil Conservation Service dam repair, drainage studies or rip-rapping for streambanks are some of the eligible projects.

### **EDUCATION GRANT SOURCES**

#### **Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) Grants**

The WEEB grant proposal process is fairly easy to follow. Match grants are available to develop, disseminate, and present environmental education information. Eligible grant applicants include corporations and non-profit organizations, public agencies such as municipalities, school districts and Cooperative Educational Service Agency districts, as well as public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts. The funding period is up to 18 months, from July 1 through December of the following year. Contact the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, PO Box 7841, Madison WI 53707-7841 (608-266-3155) for application materials or for more information about these grants.

#### **Times Mirror Magazines Conservation Council**

The magazine group of Times Mirror, Inc. provides grants funded by 2.5% of the net revenue from any advertisements that contain a pro-environmental message. Projects must be related to at least one of the magazines, show potential for useful results, and be innovative models capable of replication. Selections are made every 6 months and the company encourages you to send a one-page proposal first. It will contact you to say whether you should send a full 5-page proposal including budget, narrative and references. Deadlines are December 15 and June 15. Contact the Times Mirror Magazines Conservation Council, Attn: Partnership for Environmental Education, 1705 DeSales St., NW, Ste. 801, Washington, DC, 20036, 202/467-4949.



**Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin 1995 Small Matching Grants**

This program provides funds to individuals and organizations who need a relatively small amount of money to complete their project or implement their program. Individuals, organizations and government agencies are eligible to receive grants up to \$1,000 for projects involving education, management, restoration or research related to Wisconsin's natural resources. The next grant application deadline is February 1, 1995. To receive an application, contact the Natural Resources Foundation office (608/266-1430) after November 1, 1994.

**EPA Environmental Education Grants Program**

Proposed activities usually include curricular development, field methods for determining ecological conditions, projects to understand and assess specific environmental issues, provision of training for teachers or related personnel, and/or designing projects which foster international cooperation in addressing environmental issues involving the U.S., Canada and/or Mexico. Deadline is October 15. For more information, contact EPA Headquarters, 202/260-3335.